



ST. THOMAS MORE COLLEGIATE

HOME OF THE KNIGHTS SINCE 1960

Tuesday, March 17, 2020

Dear STMC Community,

Today's announcement by the Premier and the Minister of Education regarding the closure of schools and the suspension of all school-related activities beyond March 30th, 2020 will see us moving forward with our plans to implement an e-based teaching & learning environment after the break. We are currently targeting Wednesday, April 1st, 2020 as the day that we will transition our students to e-based learning. Our staff will be working on March 30th & 31st, 2020 meeting electronically to plan for the necessary adjustments that we will all need to make to allow our educational programs to continue.

In implementing our 1:1 Chromebook initiative last year, we were able to leverage the benefits of a wide range of online learning modalities, including the G-Suite Applications – Google Classroom, Google Docs, Google Forms, and *now Google Meet*. This foundation will allow us to remotely deliver both asynchronous [video, text, and multimedia lessons] and synchronous ['live'] teaching. It obviously will not be business as usual as our (soon to be) new 'normal' will need to look quite different than we've ever seen before. Going to a full online platform is going to be a little challenging for all of us, particularly in specialized areas such as Learning Assistance. We will all quickly get used to the new platform, however, and determine precisely how to best continue supporting all of our students needs. Undoubtedly there will be some uncertainty in the next week, but fear not... I'm blessed to be working with an amazing team of people... we will figure this all out!

This is new and uncharted territory for all of us, and operationalizing our contingency plan is going to take some time. Thankfully... we have a little bit of that on our hands right now.

We expect to roll out a more comprehensive plan by end of next week. Details regarding online setup and other instructions will be shared with students via their @my.stmc.bc.ca school emails on Friday, March 27th, 2020.

Finally, we ask that you pray for the continued good health of our two Christian Brothers – Bros. Bassett & Cass – as well as everyone associated with our St. Thomas More family!

Yours in Christ,

Steve Garland
Principal - STMC